

## **Testimony against Ammo Tax – H.B. 5653**

This tax is a punishment to law abiding gun owners for the criminal acts of the unlawful.

There is no other scheme where this is accepted. Sin taxes are generally levied against those individuals who actively participate in harmful behavior. Smoking is known to have significant health risks to those and others. Lawful use of firearms DOES NOT.

Lawful use of firearms is an extremely safe activity. I have personally witnessed over 1 million rounds of ammunition fired with absolutely no one injured or killed. This includes my own recreational shooting, competitions that I have participated in, and shooting with the US Navy for over 30 years, where I have earned the expert rifle and pistol awards.

There is also little evidence that any such tax would actually raise enough funds to accomplish much in the way of gun violence prevention. Researchers currently have little evidence to suggest whether this strategy will be effective in reducing gun deaths and injuries, and effects will depend on the amount of revenue collected and how that revenue is targeted. Seattle's tax yielded \$93,000 in 2017, substantially less than the projected annual revenue of \$300,000 to \$500,000 (From Rand Essay: Firearm and Ammunition taxes, April 15, 2021)

Tax Policy Center published an article titled "Excise tax on Guns and Ammo: Sin Taxes that Don't Prevent the Sin". It is clear from research, studies, and articles that taxes on law abiding citizens does very little except make it harder to exercise that freedom. Additional taxes on guns and ammo aim to restrict a constitutional right.

Much like traditional restrictions on firearms, taxes only affect the law-abiding citizens. Those who wish to carry out illegal acts will have no problem buying tax-free guns and ammunition from a black market dealer.

If tomorrow it was proposed that the religious faithful be made to pay a tax to freely worship so those funds could be used to pay for heinous criminal acts of religious fanatics, that proposed bill would be dismissed with disgrace.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment is part of the Constitution. Every elected official takes an oath to defend the Document in its entirety. It is a shame the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment has become something members of the majority party feel can be consciously ignored in their policy making.

## **I OPPOSE H.B. 5653**

Respectfully submitted,  
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